

Message Text

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14
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7254
INFO USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USCINCEUR
USDOCOSOUTH
USLOSACLANT
USNMR SHAPE
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7245

E.O. 11652: GDS
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1. DURING THE COURSE OF LONG, PRIVATE LUNCH CON-

VERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA SEPTEMBER 21, I AGAIN DISCUSSED WITH HIM OUR THINKING ON SHORT-TERM MEASURES TO BRING ABOUT A CLOSER ASSOCIATION BETWEEN SPAIN AND NATO. I SAID I THOUGHT THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE IN NATO WAS IMPROVING AND CALLED HIS ATTENTION TO THE STATEMENTS WHICH NATO SYG LUNS HAD MADE IN WASHINGTON FAVORABLE TO SPAIN. OREJA SAID THAT HE HAD NOTED THESE REMARKS AND WAS PLEASED BY THEM.

2. IN REFERRING TO THE LIST OF SHORT-TERM MEASURES THAT I HAD LEFT WITH HIM IN JULY, I SAID I THOUGHT WE HAD EITHER MOVED FORWARD OR WOULD BE MOVING FORWARD SOON ON MOST OF THEM. I MENTIONED THE FORTHCOMING, ALTHOUGH YET UNSCHEDULED, VISIT OF GEN. HAIG, THE POSSIBILITY OF DISCUSSIONS ON CSCE, AND THE POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENT OF A SPANISH LIAISON OFFICER TO CINCEUR HEADQUARTERS. I MENTIONED TO OREJA AGAIN MY HOPE THAT WE COULD HAVE SYSTEMATIC EXCHANGES ON THESE QUESTIONS SO THAT WE COULD CAREFULLY COORDINATE OUR ACTIONS LOOKING TOWARD AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE SPANISH POSITION VIS-A-VIS NATO.

3. OREJA, AS HE HAD DONE BEFORE, SPOKE OF HIS OWN VERY GREAT INTEREST IN MOVING SPAIN IN THIS DIRECTION. HE AGAIN REFERRED TO THE RELUCTANCE OF THE SPANISH ARMY TO VIEW THE NATO CONNECTION FAVORABLY AND HE URGED ME TO TAKE AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER WITH THE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT, GENERAL SANTIAGO. (SINCE MY CONVERSATION WITH OREJA, GENERAL SANTIAGO HAS BEEN REPLACED BY GENERAL GUTIERREZ MELLADO, WHO IS INCLINED TO HAVE SOMEWHAT MORE OPEN VIEWS ON THESE SUBJECTS. OREJA GAVE ME NO HINT THAT HE WAS AWARE THAT SANTIAGO WAS ABOUT TO BE REPLACED.) I SAID I WOULD DO THIS ALTHOUGH THE TASK OF CHANGING THE ATTITUDE OF THE SPANISH MILITARY OBVIOUSLY HAD TO REST LARGELY WITH ITS CIVILIAN ELEMENTS SUCH AS HIMSELF WHO WANT TO SEE SPAIN MOVE ITS POLITICAL AND MILITARY THINKING NORTHWARDS.

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4. OREJA CONFIRMED TO ME THAT THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF EUROPEAN AND ATLANTIC AFFAIRS IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE, AMBASSADOR NUNO AGUIRRE DE CARCER, WOULD GO TO BRUSSELS AS AMBASSADOR. THE AGREEMENT HAD ALREADY BEEN REQUESTED, AND HE BELIEVED IT WAS LIKELY THAT AGUIRRE WOULD BE IN BRUSSELS BY EARLY NOVEMBER. ONE OF HIS TASKS WOULD BE TO MAINTAIN CLOSE ASSOCIATION, AS HIS PREDECESSOR HAD DONE, WITH NATO AND SACEUR.

FOR THIS REASON, HE BELIEVED THAT IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO WAIT FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW DIRGEN BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH MORE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS ON SOME OF THE MEASURES WE MAY HAVE IN MIND. HE SAID HE HOPED TO MAKE THIS APPOINTMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE, BUT HE DID NOT INDICATE WHO HE HAD IN MIND.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH I AM CERTAIN THAT OREJA, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE KING AND SUAREZ, IS SINCERELY INTERESTED IN AN INCREASINGLY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO, HE FINDS THE GOING ANYTHING BUT EASY, VIS-A-VIS THE MILITARY. IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT THERE IS NO COORDINATED SPANISH POSITION ON THIS WHOLE QUESTION, AND I DOUBT THAT ANY SYSTEMATIC DISCUSSION OF SOME OF THE MEASURES WE HAVE IN MIND IS GOING TO BE FEASIBLE. HOWEVER, WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EUROPEAN AND ATLANTIC AFFAIRS AND WITH THE MORE OR LESS REGULAR DISCUSSIONS WITH OREJA, I THINK WE CAN MOVE FORWARD WITH OUR GENERAL GAME PLAN, DEPENDING, OF COURSE, ON HOW US NATO READS REACTIONS FROM OTHER NATO PERMREPS. WE SHALL CERTAINLY DO WHAT WE CAN AT THIS END TO NUDGE THE SPANISH MILITARY IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE APPOINTMENT OF GUTIERREZ MELLADO AS FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF THE GOVERNMENT WILL GIVE US MORE OPEN POINT OF DIALOGUE THAN THAT WHICH EXISTED WITH HIS PREDECESSOR.
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